

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 101655Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5015

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 5186

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, TGEN, ENRG, RO

SUBJ: NUCLEAR COOPERATION

REF: STATE 241329

DRYTM STEVER AND GANLEY AND I WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT
CEAUESCU TODAY.

1. AFTER SOME PRELIMINARIES, CEAUESCU LAUNCHED INTO
A DISCUSSION WHICH TOOK THE BETTER PART OF AN HOUR ON
THE STRONG DESIRE OF ROMANIA TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.S.
IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY, PARTICULARLY ATOMIC ENERGY.
HE WENT ON TO STATE THAT HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY CERTAIN
COUNTRIES DO NOT KEEP THEIR COMMITMENTS. THE NPT
STATES THAT THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH POSSESS NUCLEAR ENERGY
WILL SHARE THIS KNOWLEDGE WITH NON-NUCLEAR STATES FOR
PEACEFUL APPLICATIONS. NOT ONLY, ACCORDING TO CEAUESCU,
DO SOME COUNTRIES NOT IMPLEMENT THIS PROVISION BUT NEW
CONDITIONS ARE ACTUALLY ADDED. THIS, CEAUESCU SAID,
MAY FORCE ROMANIA TO REVIEW ITS OWN TREATY COMMITMENTS AND TO
LOOK FOR NEW PARTNERS. ROMANIA WILL FIND SOME WAY TO
SOLVE ITS PROBLEMS. BOTH THE U.S. AND USSR ARE MIS-
TAKEN IN THEIR NLCULATIONS&; ROMANIA WILL BE ABLE TO
DEVELOP ITS OWN NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS; IT IS
JUST A MATTER OF TIME, MAYBE AN ADDITIONAL EIGHT YEARS
OR SO. ROMANIA IS PREPARED TO COMMIT THE NECESSARY
RESOURCES TO THIS TASK IF NECESSARY. STEVER EXPRESSED
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THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO GO OUR

SEPARATE WAYS. I MENTIONED THAT THE WHOLE SITUATION ON NUCLEAR POWER WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE COMPLICATED THAN IN THE LATE 60'S WHEN ROMANIA FIRST STARTED DISCUSSING PROJECTS WITH AMERICAN AND CANADIAN FIRMS.

2. CEAUSESCU SAID HE REALIZED THAT BUT THEN EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT WHAT APPEAR TO BE NEW CONDITIONS ON SAFEGUARDS. HE STATED THAT ROMANIA FULLY ADHERES TO NPT AS WELL AS TO ITS AGREEMENT WITH IAEA. ROMANIA, CEAUSESCU STATED PLAINLY, IS NOT RPT NOT PREPARED TO GO BEYOND THE CONDITIONS OF THE ABOVE AGREEMENTS. ANY ADDITIONAL IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. USING THIS AS A TAKE-OFF, CEAUSESCU WENT INTO HIS FAMILIAR REHEARSAL OF THE

DANGERS OF WEAPONS PROLIFERATION.

3. CEAUSESCU THEN WENT ON TO REFER TO HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER AND TO EXPRESS THE HOPE IN STRONGEST TERMS THAT THE US WILL ASSIST ROMANIA IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADIAN AND AMERICAN FIRMS TO MAKE THE ROMANIAN NUCLEAR POWER STATION PROGRAM A REALITY. ALL COMPANIES THAT HE HAS PERSONALLY TALKED TO HAVE STATED FOR YEARS THAT THEY NEED APPROVAL FROM THE WHITE HOUSE AND STATE. HE HOPED THAT SUCH APPROVALS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING AND SOON.

4. IN RESPONSE TO DR. STEVER'S QUESTION, CEAUSESCU SAID THAT ROMANIA HAS MADE A DEFINITE DECISION TO GO FOR THE HEAVY WATER ROUTE AT THE NEXT STAGE OF ITS NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT. (BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH URSU, THERE ARE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT AFTER 1982 THEY MAY CONSIDER BUILDING SOME ENRICHED URANIUM POWER PLANTS DEPENDING ON TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS). THE MAIN REASON GIVEN FOR GOING THE HEAVY WATER ROUTE NOW IS ROMANIA'S WISH, ACCORDING TO CEAUSESCU, QTE NOT TO DEPEND ON OTHERS UNQTE.

5. FOLLOWING URSU COMMENTS MADE TO AMBASSADOR AT LUNCH AFTER CEAUSESCU MEETING ARE ALSO RELEVANT. URSU SAID ROMANIANS BOWED TO SOVIET PRESSURE IN 1970 AND
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ACCEPTED IDEA OF STARTING THEIR NUCLEAR PROGRAM WITH SOVIET ENRICHED URANIUM REACTOR. EVER SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN MANEUVERING TO GET AWAY FROM SOVIET APPROACH BECAUSE THEY CONSIDER IT UNSAFE, MORE COSTLY AND WITH LITTLE FUTURE. THEY WANT OVER THE LONG HAUL TO DEVELOP THEIR NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM USING U.S. REACTORS TO THE EXTENT U.S. WILL ALLOW THIS. THUS, MOVE TO HEAVY WATER REPRESENTS NOT ONLY EFFICIENT STEP WHICH ALSO UTILIZES ROMANIA'S

NATURAL URANIUM, BUT ALSO, BECAUSE U.S. FIRMS INVOLVED, IS A STEP TOWARD FUTURE CONTINUING COLLABORATION WITH U.S. URSU STRESSED THAT NUCLEAR POWER IS THE ONLY WAY ROMANIA NOW SEES IT CAN MEET ITS ENERGY REQUIREMENTS IN THE 80'S, HENCE THE URGENCY NOW.

6. COMMENT: CEAUSESCU'S GENERAL PRESENTATION IS FAIRLY CONSISTENT WITH POINTS HE HAS MADE BEFORE TO PRESIDECU AND SECRETARY ABOUT INADEQUACIES OF NPT. CLOSE TO THE SURFACE IN HIS REMARKS AND EXPLICIT IN VARIOUS URSU COMMENTS IS PUZZLEMENT AND SOME SUSPICION THAT ROMANIA IS GETTING THE RUNAROUND. THUS A CEAUSESCU REMARK ABOUT THE NUCLEAR MILITARY MONOPOLY TURNING INTO A NUCLEAR PEACEFUL USES MONOPOLY, OR URSU'S FLAT STATEMENT THAT QTE WE KNOW PERFECTLY WELL SOME COMPONENTS SUCH AS VESSELS FOR CIRCULATING HEAVY WATER OR WELDING TECHNIQUES ARE PURE U.S. ITEMS, NOT CANADIAN UNQTE.

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5016

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 5186

EXDIS

7. RE PARA 2 REFTTEL, WE HAD HAD NO INTENTION NOR ANY COMPETENCE TO CARRY ON NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS PROBLEM AND DID NOT DO SO. WE WERE, HOWEVER, IN THE DARK UNTIL REFTTEL'S ARRIVAL AND IT HAS HELPED BOTH ROMANIANS AND EMBASSY UNDERSTAND THAT NO FINAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. AT THE SAME TIME, I FEEL WE ARE NOT BEING ADEQUATELY INFORMED OF ALL THE FACTORS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING A U.S. POSITION. THIS IN TURN MAKES IT VERY HARD FOR US TO MAKE A CONVINCING CASE THAT THE ROMANIAN REQUEST IS INDEED BEING CONSIDERED SERIOUSLY IN WASHINGTON. SPECIFICALLY WE OUGHT TO BE TOLD: (1) DO THE CANDIANS HAVE OR NOT HAVE

SUFFICIENT TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE A COMPLETE HEAVY WATER SYSTEM? URSU SAYS NO. FYI PORTION OF PARA 1 REFTEL IMPLIES YES. (2) WE HAVE BEEN ALERTING WASHINGTON SINCE SPRING TO THE QUESTION OF U.S. FIRMS TELLING GOR REPRESENTATIVES THEY HAVE TO HAVE U.S. GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR EXPORTS OF NUCLEAR COMPONENTS. WHEN WILL EXPLORATION WHETHER THIS IS OR IS NOT REQUIREMENT BE COMPLETED (PARA 1(C) REFTEL). (3) HOW IMPORTANT ARE OUR OWN COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE ENRICHED URANIUM VERSUS HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY QUESTION?

8. DR. STEVER, DR. GANLEY AND I ARE ALL CONVINCED AFTER HEARING CEAUSESCU AND URSU THAT A CLEAR DECISION HAS INDEED BEEN MADE TO HAVE THE NEXT TWO REACTORS BE OF THE HEAVY WATER TYPE. (A PILOT HEAVY WATER PLANT, ACCORDING TO URSU, IS ALREADY PRODUCING SATISFACTORY RESULTS.) OUR DENYING LICENSES, ASIDE FROM ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP, WILL DELAY THEIR ADOPTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY, BECAUSE THEY WILL HAVE TO START WORK AFRESH WITH EITHER THE BRITISH OR GERMANS, BUT IT WILL NOT STOP THEM FROM PROCEEDING WITH THIS NEXT PHASE.

9. ADMITTEDLY WE ARE STILL SOMEWHAT IN THE DARK ABOUT ALL THE IMPLICATIONS BUT BASED ON TP TIME THAT HAS GONE BY SINCE ROMANIAN REQUEST MADE, IT SEEMS TO ME REASONABLE THAT A U.S. DECISION BE MADE IN TIME TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PATAN AT THE NOVEMBER 3-4 JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION TALKS. (URSU TOLD US ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES WILL BE WITH PATAN DELEGATION TO DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS.) I BELIEVE A FAVORABLE ONE ON HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY AND COMPONENTS IS JUSTIFIED IN TERMS OF THE 1969-70 POSITIVE PRESIDENTIAL DECISION AND OF OUR OVERALL INTERESTS IN HELPING ROMANIA CONTINUE TO INCREASE ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM THE USSR ESPECIALLY IN A FIELD WHERE THAT MOVE IS ALREADY WELL UNDER WAY. ANY DECISION ON ENRICHED URANIUM REACTORS OUGHT TO BE RESERVED FOR CONSIDERABLY LATER.

10. DR. STEVER AND DR. GANLEY HAVE SEEN THIS MESSAGE IN DRAFT AND PLAN TO PURSUE THE QUESTIONS RAISED UPON THEIR RETURN TO WASHINGTON WITH AN EYE TO EXPEDITING A DECISION. I WILL WANT TO DO THE SAME UPON MY RETURN. MEANWHILE REQUEST CLARIFICATION ON POINTS RAISED IN PARA 7 ABOVE. BARNES

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